

D-790
F. W. Woolworth Company Building
Cambridge
c. 1925 and later
Private

The former F. W. Woolworth Company building, now the Canvasback Restaurant and Irish Pub, is a large early 20th-century commercial block built during the mid to late 1920s in the heart of the Cambridge business district. Built in two distinct sections, the two-story, ten-bay grayish tan brick block is unified by a 1930s storefront cornice plaque and banks of display windows incorporating two recessed entrances. The distinctive name plaque, stretching the full length of the building, consists of molded stainless steel on the outer edges of a central black band that curves in rounded corners at each end in the decorative forms common to the Art Moderne style. A seam in the brickwork between the fourth and fifth bays from the southwest corner clearly indicate the two separate building programs as do the differences in brickwork conventions above the windows. The southern four window units are spanned by flat jack arches, while the northern six bays have segmental brick arches.

While leased by the F. W. Woolworth Company during the second quarter of the 20th century, this commercial property was purchased by the company outright in 1986, and sold ten years later as the historic department store chain suffered in sales across the nation. The Sanborn Insurance Company maps printed in 1918 and 1930 indicate that the two-part structure was erected during the period between these two issues of the company prints.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-790

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic F. W. Woolworth Company Building
other Canvasback Restaurant and Irish Pub

2. Location

street and number 420-422 Race Street not for publication
city, town Cambridge vicinity
county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Anthony J. Thomas, Sr. and Marion S. Thomas
street and number 603 William Street telephone 410-
city, town Cambridge state MD zip code 21613

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 346 folio 341
city, town Cambridge tax map 301 tax parcel 4499 tax ID number 7-118201

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-790

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The F. W. Woolworth building is located at 420-422 Race Street in the central business district of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The two-story, ten-bay stretcher bond front commercial block was built in two distinct sections with a seam in the brickwork between the fourth and fifth bays from the southwest corner. Different as well is the treatment of the window arches above the southern four bays with flat jack arches, which contrasts with the segmental arches that define the northern six bays. Unifying the entire ten-bay façade is a stainless steel and black metal storefront cornice with modest Art Deco references in the rounded outside corners and decorative stainless steel molded edges. The first floor storefront is divided into two principal sections with recessed doorways flanked by glass display windows. Unifying as well is the pressed metal cornice and frieze that stretch across the top of the building above the second floor windows. The first floor interior has been reworked as a modern restaurant. An original pressed metal ceiling with decorative neoclassical motifs remains intact in the southern section.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The former F. W. Woolworth Company building is a two-story, stretcher and common bond brick commercial block located at 420-422 Race Street in the central business district of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The grayish brick structure, ten bays across, was clearly built in two distinct stages with a vertical seam in the brickwork between the fourth and fifth bays from the southwest corner. The side walls, obscured by adjacent buildings, is laid in regular common bond.

The west (main) elevation has a unified first floor storefront consisting of two recessed entrances flanked by banks of glass display windows resting atop low knee walls. Unifying the entire front of the two-sectioned building is its grayish tan colored brick and a long storefront cornice of stainless steel and black painted metal that formerly carried the F. W. Woolworth & Company name and now reads "Canvasback, Restaurant & Irish Pub." The storefront cornice clearly dates from the 1930s with its stream-lined Art Deco stylistic finishes. The cornice name plaque has rounded outside corners, and its edges are trimmed with molded stainless steel. Defining the second floor is a series of single-pane sash windows. The four southern window units are spanned by flat jack arches, while the six windows to the north have segmental brick jack arches. Stretching across the top of the building below its parapet cap is a heavy pressed metal cornice clearly assembled in sections with a seam between the two sections. At the north end of the commercial block is a separate entry structure of lower wall height executed in the same grayish brick.

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Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

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Name F. W. Woolworth Company Building
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

The interiors have been remodeled as modern restaurant spaces. The southern portion retains a decorative pressed metal ceiling with a highly decorative coffered pattern in neoclassical pattern with a large cove cornice around the perimeter. The second floor was not seen.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-790

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The former F. W. Woolworth Company building, now the Canvasback Restaurant and Irish Pub, is a large early 20th century commercial block built during the mid to late 1920s in the center of Cambridge's commercial district on Race Street. Built in two distinct sections, the two-story, ten-bay grayish tan brick block is unified by a 1930s storefront of glass display windows and name plaque of stainless steel and black painted metal. The decorative molded edges, and the rounded outside corners points to the Art Deco influence in early 20th-century American design traditions. The ten-bay building is also unified with its pressed metal cornice that stretches across its full front above the second floor windows.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Formerly the Cambridge location of the F. W. Woolworth Company store, this two-story, two-sectioned commercial block was unified during the 1930s with a single stainless steel and painted metal plaque that carried the national department store's name in bold block lettering. While leased by the company during the second quarter of the twentieth century, the F. W. Woolworth Company bought the property outright in April 1986,¹ and sold it ten years later in October 1996.² The Sanborn Insurance maps printed in 1918 and 1930 indicate that the two-part structure was erected during the period between the printing of these two issues of the company maps.

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, PLC 239/451, 30 April 1986, Dorchester County Courthouse.

² Dorchester County Land Record, MLB 346/341, 9 October 1996, Dorchester County Courthouse.

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Name F. W. Woolworth Company Building
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

F. W. Woolworth Company Building
420-422 Race Street
Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland
Map 301, Parcel 4499

MLB 346/341

F. W. Woolworth Company

to

10.9.1996

Anthony J. Thomas and Marion C. Thomas

Survey made October 1932, WHM 10/418

PLC 239/451

Mary J. Truitt, Jean N. Chaffinch, Edward H. Nabb, Jr.
and Winfred N. Sewell

to

4.30.1986

F. W. Woolworth Company

\$90,000 ...Survey WHM 10/418, October 1932

All those certain two (2) lots or pieces of ground with buildings and improvements thereon, erected, situated on the East side of Race Street, designated as Nos. 20 and 20 1/2, lying between the land now or late of A. Shepherd Bayly, et al. on the South, and now or late of Henrietta Clark on the North, fronting on the East side of Race Street Eighty-four feet, six inches and extending eastwardly in length or Depth one hundred and seventy-five feet...

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-790

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.
Sanborn Insurance Maps, various issues, Library of Congress.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>14,350 square feet</u>
Acreage of historical setting	<u>14,350 square feet +/-</u>
Quadrangle name	<u>Cambridge, MD</u>

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	2.15.10
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

TALBOT CO
DORCHESTER CO

Light

Hambrooks
Bar

Slagle 3

Boat
Ramp

Radio
Tower
(WCEN)

Great Marsh
Point

Sandy Hill
Sch

Middle
Sch

Glasgow
Sch

SOMERSET
AVE

GLASGOW
AVE

SCHOOL
ST

Golden Shore
Sch

Long Wharf
Park

BM 5

Tidal
Sta

Boat
Ramps

Heliport

Hosp

BM 13

MARYLAND
AVE

DORCHESTER
AVE

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CAMBRIDGE

Bethel
Cem

Maces Lane

D-790, F. W. Woolworth Co. Bldg
Cambridge, MD Quadrangle



RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

CANVASBACK RESTAURANT & IRISH PUB

Barley Bread
Sausages,
Bacon, Eggs
11 AM - 1 PM

CANVASBACK
11 AM - 1 PM
Monday thru Friday
11 AM - 1 PM

HARPER
of Iowa

GENERAL CONTRACTORS
Commercial & Residential
Construction
410 N. 2nd St.
410 N. 2nd St.

D-790

F. W. Woolworth Building
Cambridge, Dorchester Co., Md.
West elevation

2. 2010, Paul B. Touart, Pittov.
W.G. / Md. Historical Trust

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